Reatta

Division Newsletter

Buick Club of America

Volume 14 Issue 4 Winter2010

My Love Affair with the Buick Reatta

By: Marck Barker | Age 15 | Raleigh, NC | RDiv: 1096

In May of 2000, my aunt Susan was about to start a new job in Downtown Raleigh, and her 1970 4-speed Avanti wasn't going to cut it with Downtown traffic. So, my grandpa went looking for a new car for her.

He found a '90 Maui Blue/Blue Reatta coupe with 16-way seats and 55k on the clock. He didn't know much about the car, other than it was low production, and it was different (he likes different; his daily driver is a '89 Dodge Dakota convertible).

Though I was only 5-years-old at the time, I immediately fell in love with the car (I liked even more that I could ride in the front seat while I was still under 12). My aunt drove the car nearly every day for 7 years until she totaled it. The car now had 189k on the clock.

Two days later, my grandpa found her another Reatta, a '90 Red/Grey coupe. This is her current daily driver; and while it's not nearly as nice as her blue car, it's not too bad.

In November of 2008, at age 13, I made up my mind that I wanted to buy a car to start working on, so that it would be drivable by the time I got my license (16 years old in the state of NC). I didn't want something normal, like a Honda or Toyota like most kids my age. I wanted something different. I originally wanted a '63 Studebaker Avanti as my grandfather has three. However, he talked me out of that, saying I should look for something a bit newer. The Reatta fit that description. It was different, low production, sporty, and eye-catching.

I wasn't too picky with the color combo (as long as it wasn't Red/Tan, as that was a bit too common for me), or which year, I just wanted one. I wanted a project, so that I could get to know my car, and hopefully get it for cheaper, and since I'm homeschooled, I could work on the car often.

While looking on the local Craigslist one evening, I came across a great deal. Two '89s; one Black/Saddle, one White/Burgundy. The seller was asking $1250 for both. After some negotiating on the part of my grandfather, I ended up paying him $600 cash, plus some parts that my grandfather had that the man wanted for his new Bugatti fiberglass kit-car.

The man had towed the black car all over the country behind his RV, and it had over 200k on it. I deemed it too big a project for right then, and used it as a parts car instead.

The white one was to be my project. It was a pretty decent car, but a Pine limb had gone through the rear windshield, and gotten the interior pretty wet,and messy. And the previous owner had run into a power pole (low speed, about 5 mph) , and messed up the bumper pretty bad.

That winter, I had the rear windshield replaced with one from my aunt's wrecked blue coupe, and that was basically it for the winter. It gets too cold around here in the winter to do much of anything in an unheated garage.

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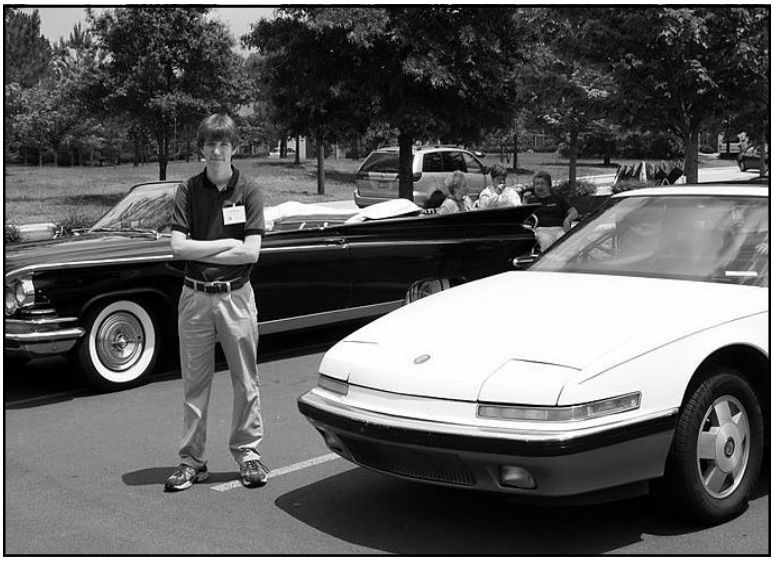
In November of 2009, I met Jim Morrison at a car show at the local fair grounds while we were both looking through Reatta literature. He informed me of the local BCA chapter (Tarheel chapter), and invited me to a meeting. The population of Reattas in our chapter is quite large (about 15 between us), and I just aded one more on top of that!

Right now, I am finally getting my car to a place where she's decent; she doesn't look too shabby if I do say so myself. I look forward to possibly attending the next National Meet in Danvers, MA, and will definitely be at the meet in Charlotte in 2012, whether it's with this car, or another. I hope to stay in the Reatta hobby, and buy half-way gone ones, and fix them back into decency while also using them as daily drivers. My next project will hopefully be a '90 convertible, or a '91 coupe. But for now, I'm going to enjoy my '89, "Lucy".



FROM THE WORKBENCH OF GEORGE MADSEN, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

If you are storing your Reatta this winter, here are ten suggestion that will help to insure that it is ready for the road again next spring.

1.Clean the outside and inside. Food spilled or left anywhere in the car will attract unwanted pests.
2. Change the oil and filter. Old engine oil contains acids and contaminates that will damage engines
3. Check and maintain manufacturers suggested tire pressure.
4. Check protection and level of antifreeze and windshield washer fluids.
5. Add fuel stabilizer and fill the fuel tank to prevent moisture, rust and fuelbreakdown.
6. Spray fogging oil into the plenum at engine shutdown or remove spark plugs and squirt a small amount of fogging oil into each cylinder.
7. Elevate car on blocks or jack stands at control arms or frame members to keep tires from flat spotting.
8. Moth balls placed in the trunk, interior, engine compartment and around the car help to ward off vermin. Moth ball odor may linger for a while in the spring.
9. Disconnect or remove the battery. Attach maintenance charger to the battery to prevent battery damage.

10. Cover the car (optional). If outside car covers combined with bad weather can damage weatherstrips and automotive

REATTA WEAR MAKES A GREAT CHRISTMAS GIFT…….

MERRY CHRISTMAS FROM CAROLE MADSEN, REATTA WEAR COORDINATOR

Promote What You Enjoy

By Bob Gardner

I joined the BCA, the BuickTown Chapter and the Reatta Division within the last seven years. One of the consistent themes I have heard through these organizations is we need more and younger members. Having given this subject a fair amount of thought I have come to the conclusion that it does little good to tell our members to recruit more and younger members without contributing some ways to make this happen. April Gill, editor of the Reatta Division newsletter, generously printed the Holiday Card my wife and I made up for this past Holiday season in the Winter 2009 edition of the Reatta Division Newsletter.. The card was not difficult to do we just took a photo to the local Walgreens store and had them scan and print the cards. Recently I took a picture of our Reatta to a local wine store that sells grape juice which you can have them make into wine or they will help you make it. They also scanned my photo and printed labels for the wine bottles. These personalized wine bottles make great gifts as well as promotes the classic car hobby.

I am sure there are many other ideas that can be turned into car club promotions. The point I am trying to make is if we want to recruit new members we need to promote our activities and demonstrate what a good time we are having. Another good tool is to wear our hats, shirts and jackets that we accumulate at the various events we attend and above all talk to strangers about our hobby and encourage them to join us.

Bob Gardner is a member of the BCA, Reatta Div., and the Buicktown (Flint, Mich) Chapter. Bob is associate editor of the Buicktown Crier .

FROM THE DESK OF CHUCK KERLS

Fall is here, and it is time for some of us to park our cars for a long winter nap. Others of us will continue to use our cars as daily drivers. Whether you drive or park your car for the winter, now is the time to perform certain things to keep your car running and looking its best. George Madsen has addressed this topic very well in this newsletter.

As the weather gets colder, it makes me reflect on all of the great events of the past summer and think forward to next July at Danvers, Mass. I have always wanted to see "Old Ironsides" and this will be our chance to see that part of the country. When you live in the central US like we do it is always exciting to see what happens on the coasts. Our country is so vast and free, and I am thankful for the opportunity to be an American. It is amazing that we have members from all over this great country and from all walks of life. When I think about our members I have to wonder what everybody does for a living, we have retired members as well as young members.

This past year when we were focused on recruiting members. I had a chat with Marck Barker who spends a lot of time on the AACA forums. He seems to have a lot of good information and is always ready to chime in to help a fellow Reatta owner where he can. I challenged him to join the BCA and the Reatta Division thinking that we can always use another brain to solve some of our car's problems. After several emails he told me that he would have to have his dad write a check to the Reatta Division, and then he told me he was only 15. WOW! It is clear that the future of our club is with the youth. I asked him to write a newsletter article. He stepped up to the plate, and his article is included in this month's edition. Thanks Marck. Keep up the good work. How many other youthful owners are out there, we would like to hear your stories also?

This time of the year to pause and remember our service personnel serving in foreign countries fighting to preserve our freedom so that we may enjoy our way of life. Regardless of where we live, where we work or how old we are, we want to thank these great Americans for their sacrifice. We hope to see you home soon.

Kathy and I wish all our members a very Happy Holiday Season and hope for a Peaceful and Prosperous New Year.

REATTA FUN
BY APRIL GILL, NEWSLETTER EDITOR

Have you ever watched the NASCAR car races at Michigan International Speedway, either in person or on TV? Have you ever wondered what it is like to come down off turn two and into the straight a way on the back side of the track, looking at all of the skid marks of those who made a slight mistake that took their car out of the race. Let me tell you it's great and lots of fun. We did it again this last summer, 19 Reattas got to run six laps around the track and then we went to The Common Grill in Chelsea for lunch.

I'm telling you this HOPING that someone else in "the Reatta Club" will see what they have in their area and put together an outing for Reattas. It doesn't have to be a racecar track, just make it a point of interest in your area. The fun is getting together with other Reatta owners and I like to invite any Reatta owner. We may get them to join the Club if they see how much fun we have. I will leave my card on any Reatta that we see in a parking lot.

Another reason for a gathering of Reattas, is to make a statement, the Reatta is also a "collector" car. It generates interest in the Reattas when the public sees us as a group. So find something interesting to do in your area and get together with other Reatta owners , even if it's only going out to lunch.

Reatta Wear

Mail to: Carole Madsen
14560 S. Oakley Ave.
Orland Park, IL 60462
email: carolemadsen@att.net

1. Cap Sunburst Logo: Adjustable Strap
Colors–Burgundy, Red, Hunter Green, Black, White, and Tan **Price $19.00**

2. Cap Script Logo: Adjustable Strap
Colors--Burgundy, Red, Hunter Green, Black, White and Tan
Logo in Red, White, Black, and Tan
Price $15.00

3. Ladies Fashion Visor Script Logo:
Adjustable Strap
Colors–Aqua, Burgundy, Dandelion, Red, and White
Logo in Black, Red, White **Price $14.00**

4. Golf Shirt Sunburst Logo
Colors– Black, Burgundy, Green, Red, Royal Blue, and White
Sizes: M, L, XL, XXL **Price $29.00**

5. Golf Shirt Script Logo
Colors– Black, Burgundy, Green, Red, Royal Blue, and White
Logo Colors in Black, Red, Tan, and White
Sizes: M, L, XL, XXL **Price $26.00**

6. Safari Hat and Band:
Band Colors—Red, Black and Hunter Green
With Gold Script **Price $ 18.00**

7. T-Shirt:
Screen Printed White 50/50 Blend
Sizes: M, L, XL, **Price $15.00**
Size: XXL **Price $16.00**

8. T-Shirts with Pocket:
Sizes: L & XL **Price $17.00**
Size: XXL **Price $18.00**

9. Crew Neck Sweatshirt with Sunburst Logo
Colors–Black, Red, Forest Green, Maroon, and Grey **Price $26.00**

10. Crew Neck Sweatshirt with Script Logo
Colors–Black, Red, Forest Green, Maroon and Grey
Logo Colors in Black, Red, Tan, and White
Price $23.00

11. <u>Reatta License Plates:</u>
Black and Silver Lettering **Price $20.00**

Name_____ Email_____

Address_____ Phone #_____

City, St, Zip_____

Reatta Div#_____

Order must be accompanied by check or money order in US funds made payable to: "Reatta Division, BCA"

Item #	Qty	Size	Color	Logo/Script	Script/Color	Cost	Total

*Prices are good thru December 31, 2010

Shipping Amounts: 1 Item $7.00 3 Items $8.00
2 Items $7.50 4 Items $9.00

Subtotal_____

Shipping_____

Total_____

CARS FOR SALE

1990 Reatta coupe, red/tan 110,000 miles. Price, $3,300.00 Norma Osborne @ 313-563-7666 Dearborn, Mich

1991 Reatta convertible. Red/tan top/tan interior. 23,000 miles, one owner.$23,500. Call Dean Lauterbach @641-792-6412

1989 Reatta. Blue, needs paint. New tires & battery. Mechanically sound & serviced. 150,000 miles. $2,950.00 OBO. Fred Mathis 704-528-3430

1988 Reatta,black/gray leather interior, full power 16 way seat, no moon roof. 4,780 of these made. 150,000 miles, excellent condition. Call Bud Burns 315-474-9390

1988 White Reatta/maroon interior in perfect condiditon. Never driven in winter, always in a garage and has 26,000 miles on it. $8000,00 or best offer. Call 616-847-1554

1991 Reatta convertible, red/tan interior, 36,411 miles, new Haartz top. Always garaged, mint. **PRICED REDUCED** to $18,500. Call Jim 478-755-1943, Macon GA

1990 Reatta red/tan interior. Original owner, always garaged, all receipts and serivce history, console has cup holder, leather manual holder, manual and pen. Always wins awards at the shows. $15,995.00 or will take an offer. Elaine Crane 918-786-3433 or elaine crane@yahoo.com

1990 Reatta convertible. White/burgandy/burgandy. Excellent conition. Always garaged & covered. All options. New Michelins. Professionally appraised @ $14,000.00. Call John Greene @ 214-422-8506 Dallas, Tx

1990 Reatta Coupe, red/tan w/ 27,150 miles. One owner. Stored winters. Beautiful condition. Cover included. $17,300.00. Call 574-262-9202

1990Reatta convertible, Burgandy/tan/tan. 43,000 miles, in immaculate condition. A southern car that has always been garaged & covered. Original floor mats, leather bound user manual w/ pen and tire gauge, plus trunk medical kit. $17,000 OBO. Call Vince @ 830-935-2421 or email @ chinapuzz@aol.com. Tx

Reatta showroom sign. $800.00/OBO. Call Cecil @ 616-240-9036

1989 Reatta, silver, 60,200 miles. $6,500. Call Pam @ 517-231-0044

1991 Reatta Coupe. White with tan interior. Showroom condition 33K mile car. Gold Senior Award 2010 Buick National Meet . You won't find a nicer Reatta. Pictures available. $9,000 OBO. Ed Farnell, 440 Langford Road, Blythewood, SC,29016 (803)754-6922. eafarnell@gmail.com.

PARTS FOR SALE

Reatta parts----Large inventory. Reasonable prices. Contact Jim Finn through e-mail: jfinn@cpinternet.com

Reatta parts----Parting over 50 cars. You name it, I should have it. John @ 810-730-9230

For sale: We have headlamp assembly crank arms (in two models) with parts kits for all Reattas as well as our replication, in all colors, of the sun visor clips for the '90/'91 convertibles. More info hkbjr@yahoo.com or (310) 476-0191. Pictures on EBAY and www.Reattaowner.com. Buy Direct

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Buick Club of America

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